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| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| Response to Rule 312 Communication | 10/596,242 | ASAKURA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Nathan M. Nutter | 1796 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 31 December 2009 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

a) ☒ entered.

b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.

c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.

Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.

e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

Attachment: Information Disclosure Statement 31 December 2009

/Nathan M. Nutter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796